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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

### Inspection Report

#### Minerals Regulatory Program

Report Date March 1, 2006

Supervisor 

**Mine Name:** White Cloud  
**Operator Name:** Sutherland Brothers, Inc.

**Permit number:** S/015/044  
**Inspection Date:** February 22, 2006  
**Time:** 7:35-8:00 AM

**Inspector(s):** Paul Baker  
**Other Participants:** None  
**Mine Status:** Inactive

**Weather:** Clear, 20's

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Purpose of Inspection:

When I visited this site last September, most of it was under water, and it was impossible to see the limits of disturbance. Since, as discussed below, I plan to be discussing reclamation with the operator, I wanted to have a better idea what disturbance exists and what reclamation needs to be done.

#### Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

According to annual reports, this site was last active in 1989. Division rules require reclamation after ten years of inactivity unless the operator appeals to the Board for a longer period of suspension of mining activity.

I telephoned the operator, Sutherland Brothers, and was told the person in charge of the project is Lee Sutherland and that he no longer works for Sutherland Brothers. When I spoke with Lee Sutherland, he said he is retired, has no interest in pursuing mining at this site, and that he does not have the means of performing the reclamation work.

7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)

Much of the site is still under water, so it is still not possible to precisely judge the disturbance boundaries. Although I did not take GPS measurements, I estimate the size of the disturbance at about 3-4 acres.

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There is a windrow running approximately northeast/southwest through the middle of the disturbed area (Photos 1 and 2). To the southeast of this windrow (away from the highway), there are what appear to be a gypsum stockpile and two soil or overburden stockpiles (Photo 1 and barely visible in Photo 3). On the northwest side of the windrow are three more material piles. One or two of these appear to be gypsum and the other pile(s) is(are) soil.

#### 9. Soils

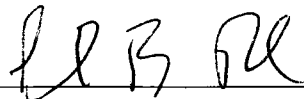
There is little or no vegetation in the bottom of the "pit," but vegetation cover increases toward the edges. This is probably because of salts in the subsoils. There is some established vegetation on the windrow which indicates it is probably suitable as soil.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations:

The "pit" from which soil and gypsum were taken is shallow, and reclamation would be fairly simple. Gypsum would be spread in the bottom of the pit, and this would be covered with soil and overburden from the piles and windrow. The reclaimed area should be made to be free-draining.

I intend to call Sutherland Brothers and see what their feeling is about reclaiming the site. I prefer having them do the reclamation without the Division requiring it. If they refuse to do it or take too much time, it may be necessary to require reclamation and, potentially, take enforcement action.

Inspector's Signature



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Directions to Site:

The site is 18.2 miles south of I-70 and about 26 miles north of Hanksville.

PBB:pb

cc: Bob Sutherland, Sutherland Brothers  
Rebecca Doolittle, Price BLM

Attachment: Photos

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## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

S/015/044, White Cloud Mine, Sutherland Brothers

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Photo 1. View looking approximately southwest along the windrow. A gypsum stockpile is near the center of the photo.



Photo 3. This picture shows two soil piles southeast of the windrow.

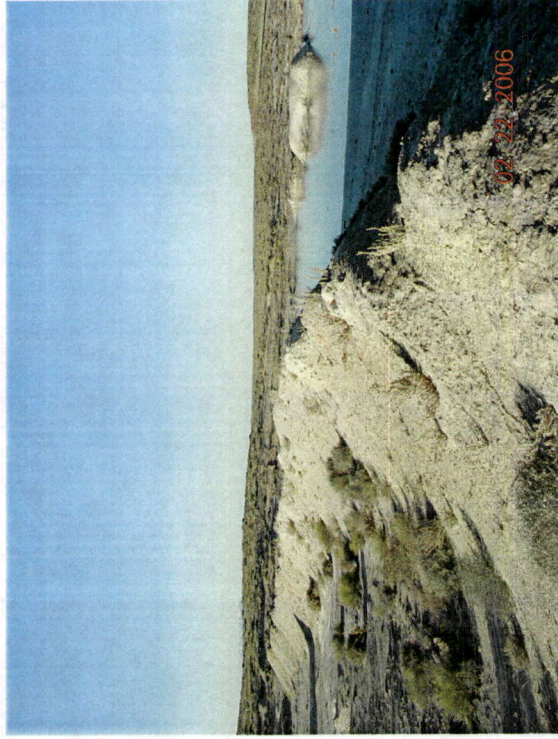


Photo 2. Another view of the windrow with one of the piles on the northwest side.

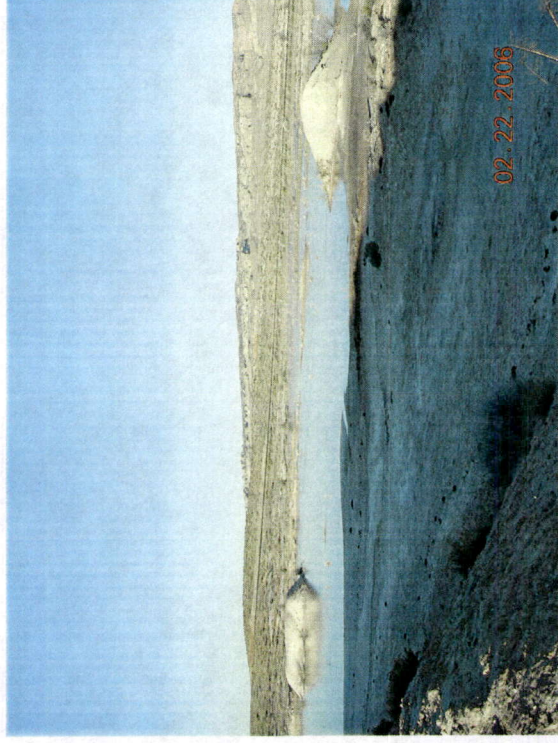


Photo 4. Area to the west of the windrow.